

14 March 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT : Plaque Honoring Allen Dulles -
Developments Leading up to Installation

The following is an account of the developments leading to the installation of the bas relief plaque honoring Allen Dulles which you or the Director may find useful incident to the unveiling.

In October 1965 [REDACTED] made a suggestion to name the various entrances to the Headquarters Building possibly after past directors, with suitable signs and placards emplaced. STATINTL

From this suggestion, in February 1966 the Fine Arts Commission reported to the Executive Director-Comptroller its consideration of an appropriate memorial to the pre-eminent role of Allen Dulles in obtaining a Headquarters Building for CIA and it recommended placing a bust and/or plaque in the main entranceway. The FAC was advised that the Director found this suggestion appealing, but before definite action would want quite specific recommendations about what was proposed, who the sculptor would be, etc.

In April 1966 the FAC suggested that a plaque of bronze, approximately two feet by three feet, with a bas relief head of Mr. Dulles be placed in the main entrance way.

Consideration was given to recognized sculptors, and in May 1966, after Mr. Heinz Warneke was brought to the building for discussion of the proposal, the FAC recommended that Mr. Warneke be selected to do the work decided upon.

To reach a decision on the most appropriate way to give recognition to Mr. Dulles in the Headquarters Building, three suggestions were circulated in June 1966 to 28 senior officers of the Agency--a plaque with bas relief of Mr. Dulles's head, a bust of Mr. Dulles, or a modern sculpture. The substantial vote was for the plaque. In July 1966 the Director approved

2

commissioning Mr. Warneke to do the plaque which would be installed on the right way opposite the scriptural quotation in the main entranceway.


Soon after Mr. Helms advised Mr. Dulles that many who were honored to serve for so long under his leadership felt that they would like to give some lasting recognition to his unstinting efforts which resulted in the construction of the Headquarters Building and described the manner in which we planned to do it. Mr. Dulles replied that he was touched by the thought and suggestion and would cooperate with Mr. Warneke.

In December 1966, after he had prepared the plaque in clay and tested it in the entranceway, Mr. Warneke recommended that the plaque be not in bronze, but in marble similar to that used in the entranceway. In March 1967 the FAC received the Director's approval for the marble plaque with a bas relief of Mr. Dulles's head and the inscription:

ALLEN WELSH DULLES
Director of Central Intelligence
1953 - 1961

HIS MONUMENT IS AROUND US

STATINTL


Chairman
Fine Arts Commission

Distribution:
Orig & 1 - Addressee

(1) - C/FAC subj
1 - 

cc

STATINTL